

Serial No. 10/614607
Docket No. 614359-82664

*** * REASONS FOR AMENDMENTS AND REMARKS * ***

Applicants wish to acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's analysis and efforts in examining this application.

On pages 2-3 of the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Claims 1, 7, and 12 now recite the locking portions acting on the cam pin to selectively *prevent the cam pin from moving in first and second directions*. The Examiner contends that the original specification discloses the locking segments preventing the *gripping jaws* from pivoting when the cam pin is located in the locking segments (see page 12, lines 1-12 and page 15, lines 11-15). The Examiner further contends that the specification also describes the locking segments as being "configured" to prevent pivotal movement of the *gripping jaws* (see page 12, lines 17-21 and page 15, lines 15-20), but nowhere in the specification is there disclosure of the locking portions of the cam slots acting on the cam pin to prevent the *cam pin* from moving as is now recited in each independent Claim 1, 7, and 12. The Examiner alleges that while applicant contends there is support for these claim limitations in Figures 2, 4, 6, and 7, these figures by themselves without supporting written disclosure do not provide adequate support for these newly added limitations.

On October 31, 2005, an interview took place between the undersigned and the Examiner where it was agreed that the specification does describe the claimed invention in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. As the Examiner noted in his November 3, 2005, Interview Summary Report, the specification recites that jaws 12 can only pivot (and, therefore, the cams can only move)

Serial No. 10/614607
Docket No. 614359-82664

when the cam pins are moved slightly downward by the piston. The Examiner also noted that support for this position can be found on page 12, lines 6-12 of the specification.

Claim 1 has been amended pursuant the Examiner's request to remove the pronouns in Claim 1 and replace them with structural nouns. This was done to reduce any potential for a clarity issue to arise, not for purposes of patentability. Claim 1 was not rejected because of the use of its pronouns.

It is appreciated that the scope of the claims is not limited to the specific configuration of gripper shown in Fig. 4. Rather, the foregoing citations to the specification, as well as other citations to the specification, indicate the "locking portions" could be used on other grippers therein disclosed. (See, also, page 8, lines 1-14; page 15, lines 21-27 through page 16, lines 1-6, for example).

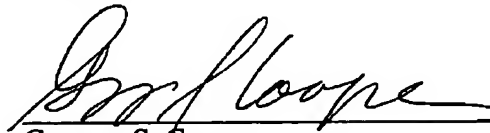
Accordingly, it is respectfully believed that the rejection in the September 13, 2005, Office Action is moot and the claims, as amended, are now allowable. It is, thus, respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

If, upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

Serial No. 10/614607
Docket No. 614359-82664

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. To the extent additional fees are required, please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (614359/82664) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory S. Cooper
Reg. No. 40,965
Direct Line (260) 425-4660

FWDS01 GZC 199826_1